



Issue No. 8 Winter 2005

# BASIN BULLETIN

A Quarterly Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

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### EPA Community Involvement Contacts

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## Box and Basin Yard Cleanups Go Beyond 550 in 2004

In 2004, more than 550 residential properties (including yards, commercial properties, and rights-of-way) were cleaned up in the Bunker Hill Box and Coeur d'Alene Basin, an unprecedented number of residential cleanups at the site.

In the Bunker Hill Box, the Upstream Mining Group (UMG) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) performed residential cleanup. The ACOE performed cleanup on behalf of EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). UMG completed cleanup of 160 residential yards, and 12 commercial properties and rights-of-way. The ACOE completed 36 residential yards and 27 commercial properties and rights-of-way. Overall, 235 residential properties were cleaned up in the Box.

In the Basin, IDEQ leads the residential cleanup program, with funding from EPA. In the 2004 season, IDEQ finished cleaning up more than 330 residential properties in the Basin.

For more information, call **Angela Chung** at 206-553-6511.

**Five-Year Review  
Draft Report —  
Are You Interested in  
Getting a Copy?  
See page 9.**

## Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes Certified Complete

In January, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) received certification for completing all work associated with converting their historic "Wallace-Mullan Branch" to a pedestrian trail. This 72-mile trail, which crosses the Panhandle Region of North Idaho, is known as the "Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality granted the Certification of Completion. It acknowledges the railroad's obligations and the

effort it took to complete legally required response actions under a 1999 consent decree.

The work involved repairing flood damage to the existing railroad corridor; removing contaminated materials from former sidings and residential areas; removing and disposing of contaminated materials; and putting up protective barriers. The railroad also salvaged wooden ties and steel rail and retrofitted bridges, including the historic Chatcolet Swing-Span Bridge near Heyburn State Park.

### Trail Rules

Rules of use established for the trail help ensure safe use. Trail managers patrol the area. They are **Bill Scudder**, Idaho Parks and Recreation, 208-682-3814, and **Dean Chapman**, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, 208-686-1800. The certification does not release UPRR from liability for areas beyond the trail "project area" defined in the consent decree. EPA, the State, and Tribe have the right to take or require future action based on new information or unknown conditions. For more information, call **Cliff Villa** at 206-553-1185.

A ten-foot-wide asphalt surface with one foot of gravel on either side was built on top of the existing railroad. Workers placed clean topsoil and vegetation as protective barriers throughout the upper and lower basin, to minimize the risk of people and animals contacting contaminated materials. The railroad also removed all contaminated materials from the right-of-way within the 15 miles of trail on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, except from five causeways that lie at least ten feet below the trail surface, and from some submerged areas.

This is a major accomplishment for all parties involved. It illustrates how such a diverse group with specific interests—the railroad, the Tribal government, and federal, state, and local governments—resolved differences to successfully complete a project that reduced risks to public health. The project also returned land to productive use by creating a safe recreational trail for local residents and tourists.

## Shoshone County and BLM Work Together to Improve Fish Passage

In November 2004, the Bureau of Lands Management (BLM) and Shoshone County cooperated to replace undersized, problem culverts at the mouths of Highland and Denver Creeks. These culverts have a history of plugging and affecting the county road during moderate floods. The Department of Interior funded the project. Through a simple cooperative agreement with Randy Murray,

Shoshone County Public Works Director, the county agreed to install the culverts and riprap provided by BLM.

The agencies worked together on the culvert design and permit application. During construction, turbidity was controlled with a temporary diversionary pipe and straw bales. Craig Lewis,

## Shoshone County and BLM Work *continued*

Supervisor of Public Works District 2 in Smelterville, provided equipment and operators, as well as bedding material. Both culverts were replaced with significantly larger pipes to handle high flows and sediment loads, particularly at the mouth of Highland Creek.



*Road Damage from failure of Highland culvert: 1996*



*Shoshone County and BLM replace Highland culvert: November 2004*

The Highland culvert was partially backfilled with clean river rock to allow fish to pass through. These culverts will complement past and ongoing reclamation efforts upstream, which have included stabilizing mine rock dumps, repairing road washouts, and removing tailings. For more information, call **Mike Stevenson**, BLM, at 208-769-5024.

## STORET: A New Web-based Data Management Tool

EPA Region 10 recently launched a pilot data management system to make the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund site environmental data widely available. It is called STORET (short for STOrage and RETrieval) — EPA's repository for water quality, biological, and physical data. Region 10 worked with Region 8 and EPA Headquarters to develop this system. STORET is a non-proprietary system and a cost-effective way to manage the large amount of data. STORET.org provides a user-friendly, map-based website to access Bunker Hill and Coeur d'Alene Basin surface water, groundwater, soil, and sediment data. Human-health-related data are not included in the database.

**>>To use the Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin STORET site, go to [www.storet.org](http://www.storet.org).**

For more information, contact **Anne Dailey** at [dailey.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dailey.anne@epa.gov), 206-553-2110, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 2110.



## Local Group Launches Education Effort in Hispanic, Asian, and Slavic Communities

With grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Lands Council has been busy over the last several months with a cross-cultural public education program. Their goal is to build public awareness of possible health risks posed by contaminants in the Spokane River. Those contaminants include heavy metals and PCBs (industrial chemicals) found in shoreline soils and fish.

The Lands Council has been educating members of low-income and recent-immigrant communities who are known to fish and recreate in and along the Spokane River. These communities include Hispanic, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Slavic residents.

Working with community educators who can use native languages and translated materials to get the health advisories to key locations is central to this effort. Community clinics, fairs, direct phone calls, English-as-a-Second-Language classes, fish cleaning demonstrations, and church visits are

some of the ways these educators are reaching people.

The Lands Council surveyed the communities to find out how many people know about the health risks associated with contact with heavy metals in soils, or about eating fish containing industrial chemicals. The initial results show that the Hispanic community is isolated from general information sources about the Spokane River contamination because of language barriers. The Slavic and Hmong communities have more bilingual speakers and tend to have a greater awareness of health risks. The Slavic community, however, tends to use the river more, which could mean higher exposures.

In just five months, the Lands Council reached over 1,600 members of these targeted communities, and the work continues. For more information, or ways to get involved with this project, contact **Amber Waldref** at [awaldref@landscouncil.org](mailto:awaldref@landscouncil.org).

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## Citizens' Coordinating Council Provides Opportunity for Participation

Folks wanting to be involved in the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund cleanup process may wish to consider the **Citizens' Coordinating Council**, or CCC. The CCC was set up under the Basin Environmental Improvement Act, which created the Basin Commission in 2001.

The CCC is a group of citizens providing local review of and input to the Basin Commission Board, the Technical Leadership Group, and the Executive Director on Basin work. The group meets about once every three months, generally a few weeks before Basin Commission Board meetings. The CCC maintains an open-door policy that allows interested individuals and groups to

participate. There is no formal procedure for becoming a member, although members who wish to participate in elections for CCC chair and vice-chair need to fill out a short information sheet.

The main functions of the CCC are to:

1. Support the Basin Commission's implementation of the Record of Decision and related plans to address heavy-metal contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin by serving as the primary mechanism for citizen input.
2. Provide comment on proposed Basin Commission one- and five-year work plans prepared by the Technical Leadership Group.

## Citizens' Coordinating Council *continued*

3. Organize project-specific teams or subcommittees, as needed, to provide citizen input to Basin Commission and Technical Leadership Group work/projects.
4. Convey the range of citizen concerns and perspectives to the Basin Commission Board concerning implementation of the Basin Commission's work plan.
5. With Basin Commission support, provide guidance on and help develop community outreach tools to keep citizens informed of Basin Commission activities and policies.
6. Contribute to the preparation of Basin Commission annual reports, mainly community outreach/involvement chapters.

7. Continually strive to be an open and inclusive body that is capable of representing diverse and balanced views.

The current chair of the CCC is **John Snider** and the vice-chair is Woody McEvers. Their two-year terms will be up in April, and elections will be held then. More detailed information on the election process will be made available on the website closer to the date at: [www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp). To learn more about the CCC, visit the website or call CCC Chair **John Snider** at 208-664-9773 or Executive Director **Terry Harwood** at 208-783-2528.

## National Academy of Sciences Investigation: Pre-publication Report Expected in March or April

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study of "EPA's assessment and cleanup decisions at the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund site" will conclude in the next several months. The Coeur d'Alene Basin is also known as Bunker Hill Operable Unit 3. The NAS Committee on Superfund Site Assessment and Remediation in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin has completed a draft report which is now undergoing an independent peer review. In late

March or early April 2005, a "pre-publication report" incorporating the comments of the peer review panel will be available on the NAS website at [www.nas.edu/best/projects.html](http://www.nas.edu/best/projects.html). Agencies, including EPA, will not have an opportunity to review the draft report until the pre-publication report is available. In June 2005, the NAS is expected to issue its final report. For more information, call **Karl Gustavson**, NAS, at 202-334-1253.

## Upper Basin Mine and Mill Cleanup Designs Move Forward

EPA is now evaluating the final pre-design data collected from the Sisters, Golconda, and Rex mine and mill sites. The Mine and Mill Project Focus Team's comments will help develop conceptual designs. Construction is scheduled to begin at the Sisters site this coming summer. Because the Golconda and Rex sites are more complex, it will require more time to complete

the designs. However, the team will look for opportunities to begin interim actions consistent with the overall design and cleanup goals for these sites. In addition, a draft design for the Constitution site is now being reviewed. This summer EPA funding will be used to start construction there. For more information, call **Bill Adams** at 206-553-2806.

## Basin Commission Contacts

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Water Treatment/Canyon Creek – Bill Adams	Phone: 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124	adams.bill@epa.gov
Water Treatment/Mullan I/I – Mark Stromberg	Phone: 208-783-5781	FAX: 208-783-4561	mstrombe@deq.idaho.gov

### CCC Project Focus Team Volunteer Leads

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Streambank Stabilization –			
Water Treatment – Richard Costa			

## Cleanup Designs Progress for Two Spokane River Recreational Areas

Cleanup designs are under way for two Washington recreational areas along the Spokane River: the Starr Road and Island Complex areas. EPA is now focusing on these two high-use, high-contamination areas, out of the 11 Spokane River recreational sites in Washington. Last August, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finished sampling to further refine the areas of the sites that require cleanup under Superfund. Chemicals of concern include lead and arsenic. EPA is currently working on these cleanup designs in coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology. Cleanup, including soil excavation, is expected to begin this summer.

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## Calendar of Events

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Contact: Terry Harwood, 208-783-2528  
Kootenai County Administration Building, 451 Government Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
February 16, 2005  
Next Basin Commission meeting:  
May 11, 2005 in the upper basin. Time, location, and agenda TBA  
[www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

### Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

Chairman: John Snider, 208-664-9773  
Visit the CCC website for meeting information:  
[www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp)

### Other Citizen Group Meetings

#### Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)

Contact: John Snider, 208-664-9773

#### Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)

Contact: Robin Stanley, 208-744-1118  
Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brooks Hotel 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

#### Silver Valley Community Resource Center

Contact: Barbara Miller, 208-784-8891  
P.O. Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

#### Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

##### Board of Directors Meeting

March 2, 2005; April 6, 2005

Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968  
Board meets first Wednesday of each month at  
Spokane City Water Department Conference Room  
914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane, WA

## Information Repositories

**North Idaho College Library**  
1000 Garden Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-769-3355

**Wallace Public Library**  
415 River Street  
Wallace, ID 83873  
208-752-4571

**Harrison City Hall**  
100 Frederick Street  
P.O. Box 73  
Harrison, ID 83833  
208-689-3212

**Spokane Public Library**  
906 West Main Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99201  
509-444-5336

**EPA Field Office**  
1910 Northwest Blvd., Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-664-4588

**EPA Seattle Office**  
Superfund Record Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128  
206-553-4494 or 1-800-424-4372

## Comings and Goings

### New Basin Commission Executive Director Starts Work

In December, **Terry Harwood** joined the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) as Executive Director. Terry grew up in Coeur d'Alene and graduated from the University of Idaho. He brings more than 37 years of engineering experience — with 22 years focused on environmental compliance and restoration — to his new job.

Since retiring as Executive Director of the USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council in Washington, D.C., in May 2002, Terry has moved back to Kootenai County and been active as an environmental consultant. He was also a member of the Citizens' Coordinating Council of the BEIPC, and participated in its efforts to manage elevated local involvement in making environmental restoration decisions for the Basin. You can reach Terry at his Kellogg office at:

Phone: 208-783-2528  
Fax: 208-783-4561  
Cell: 208-659-1715  
E-mail: [tharwoo@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:tharwoo@deq.idaho.gov)

Please welcome **Rick Currie** to his position as the new Kootenai County Commissioner replacing Dick Panabaker. Rick is the new member of the Basin Environmental Improvement Commission representing this county. **Gus Johnson** is Rick Currie's alternate representative for the Basin Commission. Rick can be reached at:

Phone: 208-446-1604  
E-mail [kcbooc@kcgov.us](mailto:kcbooc@kcgov.us)

We would also like to welcome **Jeri DeLange**, assistant to new Basin Commission Executive Director Terry Harwood. You can reach Jeri at:

Phone: 208-783-2548  
E-mail [jdelange@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:jdelange@deq.idaho.gov)

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#### Lake Presentation Available

An educational presentation about Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Basin is now available. Staff from the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District and Coeur d'Alene Tribe are taking the presentation, called ***Our Gem***, on the road. Any organization or group wanting to learn more about state, federal, and tribal efforts to improve the water quality of Lake Coeur d'Alene — or to learn what they can do to be involved — can contact Rebecca Stevens at 208-762-4939 ext. 101 or [ksswcd@icehouse.net](mailto:ksswcd@icehouse.net).



## Five-Year Review Draft Report — Are You Interested in Getting a Copy?

EPA has started a comprehensive Five-Year Review of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. EPA will evaluate cleanups in the Bunker Hill “Box” populated areas, the “Box” non-populated areas, and the Coeur d’Alene Basin. This legally required review will evaluate the effectiveness of completed remedies, and check the progress of remedies under way. Under EPA’s Five-Year Review guidance, a public review of the draft report is not required. However, given the high level of interest in this site, EPA plans to make the draft Five-Year Review Report available for public review.

EPA will issue the draft Five-Year Review report on June 1, 2005, and will hold a 30-day public comment period. We also plan to hold public availability sessions during the comment period. In late September, EPA will issue the final report.

The draft report will be about 500 pages long and will be placed in the site information repositories (*see page 7 for locations*). We encourage you to view the report at one of the repositories, or order it on CD-ROM. It will also be on EPA’s website: [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth).

**Citizens’ Coordinating Council and Technical Leadership Group members will receive a courtesy copy of the draft report on CD-ROM.**

**If you are interested in a copy of the draft report, please fill out the enclosed form and send it back to EPA by March 4, 2005.** If you have questions, call **Tamara Langton** at 206-553-2709, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 2709.

**Please mail this form to**  
 Tamara Langton  
 U. S. EPA Region 10, ECL-113  
 1200 Sixth Avenue  
 Seattle, WA 98101-1128

*This report will also be available at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth).*

✂ —————

### CDA Five-Year Review Draft Report Request

\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive EPA’s Five-Year Review Draft Report on **CD-ROM**.

\_\_\_\_ I would like a **hard copy** of EPA’s Five-Year Review Draft Report (about 500 pages).

*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Address:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Community Involvement and Outreach  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Basin Bulletin*  
*Quarterly Newsletter*  
*Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho*  
*Winter 2005*

#### Websites:

EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin  
[http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/  
CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda](http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda)

Basin Environmental Improvement Project  
Commission  
[http:// www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)  
[www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp)

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)  
<http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp>

**Submissions:** To make a submission to *Basin Bulletin*, please contact **Andrea Lindsay** or **Debra Sherbina** (see contact info on the front page).

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or at their phone and e-mail information on the front page of the Bulletin.



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